(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any agreement has also been signed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S.U. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Indo-US Cybersecurity Forum has been launched in New Delhi since April, 2002 to promote mutual cooperation and to strengthen cybersecurity.

(c) Both the countries have established Working Groups to address critical infrastructure protection and cybersecurity issues, legal cooperation and law enforcement, information security and R&D.

(d) No formal agreement has been signed by both the countries.

Marginal License fee for mobile players

1582. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought opinion of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to allow an unlimited number of mobile players in a circle with a marginal fixed license fee;

(b) the TRAI's response thereto; and

(c) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was requested to give their recommendations for grant of additional licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in terms of New Telecom Policy-1999, which, *inter-alia*, stipulates that the entry of more operators in a Service Area shall be based on the recommendations of TRAI who will review this as required and no later than every two years.

(b) TRAI have in their response dated 20.2.2003, *inter-alia*, expressed its opinion that induction of Mobile Service providers in various Service Area's can be considered if there is adequate availability of spectrum for the existing Service Providers as well as for the new players, if permitted.

TRAI have also stated that it is of utmost importance to ensure adequate quality of service in this fast growing segment of the market.

(c) The matter is presently under consideration.

Telephone facilities in rural areas

1583. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private operators or PSUs have failed to fulfil the commitment of providing telephone facilities in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the names of these companies and PSUs and assurances given by them to fulfil their commitment; and the status report as per their performances; and

(c) the details of the action taken/penalty imposed on other defaulters companies as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s Tata Teleservices in Andhra Pradesh, M/s Reliance Telecom Ltd. in Gujarat M/s Hughes Telecom Ltd. in Maharashtra, M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd. in Rajasthan, M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd. in Punjab, M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd. in Madhya Pradesh have been directed to fulfil their roll out obligations by March 2003. M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has planned to provide telecom facilities in the remaining villages of its share by 2003-04 except for those to be provided with the use of satellite media. The status of performance as on 31st January 2003 has been reported as per details given in Annexure. Statement (*See* below).

(c) The private basic telephone service providers have consistently been insisted upon to complete their unfulfilled performance obligations in respect of provision of VPTs as per their licence conditions. The Liquidated Damages provided in the licence conditions have been recovered for delay in performance. After getting chlearance from Security